NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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MEDICAL LIBRARY

NLM Regents Meet

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine convened its twenty-sixth meeting on March 16 and 17 at the Library. Presiding was Dr. William N. Hubbard, Jr., Chairman, and Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School.

The Board welcomed one of the two new Regents recently appointed by the President: Kathryn M. Smith, D.Ed., Dean of the University of Colorado School of Nursing. Mr. Alfred R. Zipf, Executive Vice President of the Bank of America, San Francisco, was unable to attend.

The first session included an account by Dr. Clifford Bachrach, Chief, BSD, of the latest meeting of the MEDLARS Literature Selection Committee, and a report on the status of planning for the second-generation MEDLARS by Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Intramural Programs.

* * *

The Regents discussed recent problems with the electronic control for GRACE (Graphic Arts Composing Equipment), the Library's computer-driven phototypesetter, which have resulted in delay of NLM publications prepared by MEDLARS.

The Photon 900 GRACE was installed in August 1964 as a prototype phototypesetter integrated with MEDLARS and operating at the rate of 300 characters per second. At that time, it composed type on film five times faster than previous phototypesetters.

To assure continued production of MEDLARS-produced publications and to accommodate increasing demands, the Library has asked for authority to purchase a production-model Photon 901. This newer model would provide a greater range of type sizes and diacritical marks and eliminate many current technical problems.

Approval of the purchase must be obtained from the Joint (Congressional) Committee on Printing. The Committee is weighing the proposal in the light of plans for the installation of phototypography equipment at the Government Printing Office, to serve interagency needs. Factors being considered include the timetable for installation of GPO's "Linotron," its production capability, and scheduling arrangements for work to be performed on the new equipment. The Board noted several anticipated drawbacks to having NLM publications produced by Linotron -- higher page costs, the lack of opportunity to edit copy before printing, and the inability of Linotron to produce catalog cards efficiently. For these reasons, the Board favors the Library's immediate purchase of the improved production-model Photon 901 which could be installed quickly.

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Regents (cont'd)

Mr. Scott Adams, NLM Deputy Director, reviewed his discussions in Paris with biomedical experts from the Committee on Scientific Information Policy of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) concerning the U. S. Mission's offer to provide OECD with MEDLARS tapes. Mr. Adams also reported that Director-General Candau of the World Health Organization has asked for MEDLARS tapes to provide recurring bibliographies for members of its various advisory panels, and for demand search service to the permanent staff of WHO headquarters and regional offices.

Dr. Charles Rice outlined the Library's plans for a Toxicology Information Program. Dr. Russell Dixon, a member of the Board of Regents, gave an account of a meeting which discussed NLM's role in continuing education in dentistry.

On Thursday evening, the Board witnessed Dr. James P. Leake's presentation to Surgeon General William H. Stewart of *The Diagnosis of Smallpox*, the 1908 classic newly reissued (see page 4). The Regents were later addressed by Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones, who gave an informative and witty talk on Walter Reed (see page 5).

* * *

On the second day of the meeting, the Regents reconvened as the National Medical Libraries Assistance Advisory Board to consider pending applications for support under the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-291).

R&D Chief Named

Ruth M. Davis, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Library as Associate Director for Research and Development. She will provide direction and leadership in planning, developing, and executing scientific and technical research and development programs in biomedical communications.

Dr. Davis comes to the Library from the Department of Defense, where, since 1961, as Staff Assistant to the Special Assistant for National Intelligence, her primary concerns were with information sciences research and development.

Dr. Davis received her undergraduate training at American University, and earned her graduate degrees with distinction in mathematics at the University of Maryland. She has served as lecturer in the graduate schools of both institutions, and is the author of numerous papers on electronic information handling and information systems development.

Accelerated Bibliographic Services

Despite sleet, snow, and an above-average computer rejection rate (resulting from annual file and *MeSH* maintenance activities), the Library processed an unprecedented 451 demand searches during February. These included 142 searches received from MEDLARS stations not yet fully operational.

Since the resumption on January 16 of full demand search services, following a brief moratorium to eliminate a backlog of requests, the Library has maintained a much improved throughput time for demand searches.

Of the search requests formulated and processed at NLM, 50 percent were completed and mailed within 11 calendar days of receipt at the Library; 80 percent within 18 days; and 90 percent within 20 days. Fewer than one percent of the searches required more than four weeks.

Difficult or poorly expressed requests often require additional formulations and, therefore, take longer to process. Librarians can expedite the delivery of searches by helping their users frame requests with adequate information properly stated. We urge the use of the Library's *Guide to MEDLARS Services* (see *NLM News*, December 1966) and will welcome your comments or suggestions for improving it.

Current Catalog Featured in LRTS Story

The latest issue of *Library Resources & Technical Services* (Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 1967) contains an article by two NLM authors -- Irvin J. Weiss, former Head, Research and Development Section, Information Systems Division, and Emilie V. Wiggins, Head, Cataloging Section, Technical Services Division. The article is entitled "Computer-Aided Centralized Cataloging at the National Library of Medicine."

This is the first substantial account to appear in print of "the production of centrally-prepared catalog copy for books in the field of medical sciences" at NLM. The 14-page article includes descriptions of the Interim Catalog Module and the Express Cataloging Service, and a section detailing the operating system itself which produces catalog cards and the biweekly and cumulated issues of the *NLM Current Catalog*.

Government Library Programs Considered

NLM Deputy Director Scott Adams was one of four Government officials who presented statements on major government libraries and their programs to the President's National Advisory Commission on Libraries, at its third meeting on February 13. These were the first of the Commission's planned series of interviews with experts, leaders from various fields, and prominent librarians.

Also testifying were Dr. Burton W. Adkinson, Head, Science Information Agency, National Science Foundation; Col. Andrew A. Aines, Technical Assistant, COSATI (Committee on Scientific and Technical Information), Office of Science and Technology; and Mr. Foster E. Mohrhardt, Director, National Agricultural Library.

PHS Reissues Classic Smallpox Text

The Public Health Service, in its role as guardian of health at all American ports of entry, has republished a 1908 medical classic, *The Diagnosis of Smallpox*, by Thomas F. Ricketts and John B. Byles. The project was conceived and directed by Dr. James P. Leake, one of the Library's distinguished scholars-in-residence and a retired PHS physician.

Dr. Leake presented a copy of the publication to William H. Stewart, PHS Surgeon General, at the dinner on March 16 of the NLM Board of Regents. In accepting the two volumes from Dr. Leake, Dr. Stewart commended "Dr. Leake's perseverance and dedicated pursuit of excellence," saying, "His efforts assure the continued availability of this long out-of-print text, which is still the most accurate and comprehensive aid to the diagnosis of smallpox."

Dr. Leake

Dr. Leake, who is an epidemiologist of international repute, made many notable contributions to medical science during his years with the Public Health Service. He has been working at the Library since 1965, utilizing one of the few copies in this country of *The Diagnosis of Smallpox*, and receiving the assistance of NLM staff members in solving problems ranging from international copyright questions to the reproduction of photographs.

The Diagnosis of Smallpox has been reprinted as a project of the Division of Foreign Quarantine in a limited edition of only 300 copies. They are being distributed exclusively to U. S. Foreign Quarantine Stations, diagnostic centers, and designated medical libraries.

Library/Communications Network

The Library has awarded a contract to the University of Michigan to conduct a program of research and development relating to a national health sciences library and communications system. More than 20 other universities, most with medical schools, are cooperating in the 26-month endeavor through the Inter-university Communications Council (EDUCOM).

The program will emphasize particularly the development of a model Biomedical Communications Center capable of conducting research into biomedical communications problems, training information specialists, and new techniques in continuing education of health professionals.

Bayne-Jones Addresses NLM Regents

The Board of Regents of the Library got an extra bonus on Thursday, March 16, in the humor-filled after-dinner speech by Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones entitled "A New Look at Walter Reed."

Dr. Bayne-Jones presented his proof that Walter Reed's fame should not rest alone on his work in yellow fever. Of as great, or even greater, medical worth, Dr. Bayne-Jones said, was Dr. Reed's work on the typhoid fever scourge of the Spanish-American War.

Dr. Bayne-Jones has been working on various historical projects, utilizing the resources of this Library, of which Walter Reed was Librarian from November 1, 1902, until his death on November 23, 1902. (His death followed major surgery, and was not caused by the strain of his 22 days as a medical librarian.)

-- Bess Furman Armstrong

New Russian Drug Index

To alleviate the growing problem of international communication of drug and related pharmacological information, NLM has just published the revised edition of the *Russian Drug Index*.

Despite the steady rise of world-wide interest in drug information, the problems to which the first edition of the *Russian Drug Index* addressed itself in 1961 still remain -- proliferating variations from standard drug and chemical terminology, increasing pharmacological activity of major interest in the U.S.S.R., and language barriers which are still formidable.

This new edition, prepared by Stanley Jablonski of NLM's Bibliographic Services Division, is intended to help alleviate these problems. The revised *Russian Drug Index* is considerably larger than the earlier edition: main entries for

compounds have been increased from 600 to 1,800; cross-references are provided from about 3,700 synonyms. With the assistance of the Chemical Abstracts Service, structural formulae have been standardized and *Chemical Abstracts* nomenclature introduced. A new feature is a list of terms from *MeSH* under which each preparation is indexed in *Index Medicus*.

The 300-page *Russian Drug Index* is available at $2.25 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

NLM Foster Parents' Group is Recognized

The Christian Children's Fund presented a certificate of appreciation, dated February 21, 1967, to the Foster Parents' Group at the Library,

> *in grateful recognition of your generous sponsorship which has meant so much in our continuing effort to house, clothe, nourish and educate needy children of all races and creeds.*

Veterinary Medical Specialists Meet

Now that the Library's scope and coverage in the field of veterinary medicine are expanding, and the number of veterinary medical subjects which are indexed in *Index Medicus* is growing, NLM has recognized the need for a broader, more precise vocabulary of veterinary terms (see *NLM News*, September 1966). To meet this need, a Panel on Veterinary Medicine has been established, composed of three veterinarians appointed by the National Agricultural Library, three by NLM, and one by the American Veterinary Medical Association. NLM's Coordinator for Veterinary Affairs, Fritz Gluckstein, D.V.M., is Executive Secretary.

The Panel's principal function is to assist in the development of a veterinary vocabulary to be used by NLM and the National Agricultural Library. Other related groups have expressed interest in the Panel's activities. Among these groups are the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration, the editors of *Standard Nomenclature of Veterinary Diseases and Operations*, and the ILAR (Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy of Sciences-National Academy of Engineering).

The Panel's first three meetings were held on October 4, 1966, January 6 and 7, and March 10 and 11; the fourth is scheduled for May 5 and 6, 1967. Its initial project is well under way -- to review for recommended changes and additions the three *MeSH* categories concerned with veterinary medicine.

New NLM Literature Searches

L.S. No.	Title	Number of Citations
5-67	Burkitt's lymphoma. Mid-1963-1966.	99
6-67	Medicine in Vietnam. Mid-1963-1966.	136

National Library of Medicine Pictorial Resources

The National Library of Medicine is well equipped to provide pictorial material relating to the history of medicine and the allied sciences. Its holdings, numbering over a million pieces, include not only monographs and journals, but a special Prints and Photographs Collection in the History of Medicine Division. Originating in the acquisition of a large group of portraits in 1879, the collection has since been enlarged through the generosity of many donors, transfers from other government agencies, and purchase. It now comprises some 55,000 pictures of nonclinical medical interest.

Young Lady with a Sore Throat. Engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi (1725-1815) after a painting by Pietro Longhi (1702-1785)

Portrait of Ambroise Paré (1510-1590), one of the great surgeons of all time. Engraving by Etienne Ficquet (1719-1794) after a portrait by "W."

All graphic media are represented in the collection: woodcuts, engravings, etchings, mezzotints, lithographs, photographs, halftones, and other mechanically produced images. There are some drawings and watercolors and a few oil paintings, mostly portraits. They range in age from 15th century woodcuts to photographs of the latest Nobel prize winners in medicine. In size, they vary from 35 mm. slides to full-size portraits.

The collection includes over 30,000 individual portraits, representing physicians, anatomists, botanists, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, chemists, and others who have contributed through the centuries to the health sciences and professions. Many are engravings and mezzotints after commissioned paintings. There is also a great variety of group portraits, showing meetings of societies, conventions, clinical groups, and informal gatherings.

All the individual portraits, and all identified medical persons in other pictures, are indexed in the portrait catalog. This catalog also includes citations to selected portraits from many books, and is constantly being enlarged by the addition of cards for portraits in journals indexed at the Library for *Index Medicus*. Totaling 80,000 entries, the catalog is an invaluable tool for the location of portraits in publications. To supplement this, catalogs and guides to the resources of other libraries are available for reference.

Pictures of buildings, including medical schools, societies and guildhalls, hospitals, and libraries, also form a substantial portion of the collection. U.S. military hospitals, including many from the Civil War and World War I, are particularly well represented -- hospital facilities and allied services, such as transport of the wounded, nursing, sanitation, and field services.

Over 400 of the finest prints in the collection are caricatures, many of them beautifully hand-colored, from the 18th and 19th centuries. Vaccination, dentistry, the evils of quackery, the effects of overindulgence in food and drink, misguided attempts to ward off the plague by special clothing, and other topics are treated in masterly fashion by such artists as Daumier, Gillray, Hogarth, and Rowlandson.

Many artists, on the other hand, have faithfully and sometimes with drama and beauty portrayed the activities of medical practitioners and the suffering of the sick or injured. From the 16th century on, there was an extensive trade in skillfully engraved versions of paintings by the masters, and the Library is fortunate to possess many of medical interest.

While portraiture and the history of medical professions and institutions are clearly revealed in prints, illustrations of scientific advances may best be found in books and journals. Medieval manuscripts may contain illustrations of anatomical knowledge, but in other fields, such as anesthesia, one must turn to periodical articles of the 19th century for some of the earliest pictures of equipment and techniques. When one searches for these, the vast resources of the National Library of Medicine become evident. The Library's holdings total nearly 1,300,000 books, journals, theses, pamphlets and other formats. In the History of Medicine Division alone are some 60,000 pieces printed before 1801. Thus, the Library's pictorial resources are to be found not only in the specialized Prints and Photographs Collection, but throughout its entire holdings.

Photographic copies of pictorial material in the Library's collections will be prepared on order for a fee. For further information or reference assistance, write to the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

- Ellen B. Wells